now use entirely indigenous packaging material without any payment of royalties;

(c) whether low density polyethylene or High density polyethylene or paper used for these machines is totally indigenous; and

(d) what is the value of royalty paid on all imports for packaging machines for three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) to (d) There are 14 units in the organised sector and a number of units in the small scale sector in the country which produce packaging machines for different products.

M/s. Hindustan Packaging Company which is producing laminated paper for aseptic packaging is using indigenous paper for manufacture of laminated paper. In order to meet the total demand for packaging material, the import of aseptic packaging material has been allowed under OGL for actual users. Low density polyethylene (LDPE) and high density polyethylene (HDPE) are also partially imported.

No royalties are payable on the import of packaging machines into the country.

Indravati Hydro-Electric Project

*352. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) by when the Indravati Hydro-electric Project is likely to be completed;

(b) when the construction work of the project was started and how much amount has been spent so far;

(c) what was the original cost of the project and how many times it has been revised; and

(d) what is the total area in hectares which will be irrigated and the quantity of power expected to be generated after the completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) Units I and II of 150 MW each of Upper Indravati HE Project in Orissa are now programmed for commissioning during 1992-93 and Units No. III and IV during 1993-94.

(b) The Project was sanctioned by the Planning Commission in May, 1978 at an estimated cost of Rs. 130.49 crores (power portion). Although, the deemed date of commencement of project is 29-9-1978, the project was posed to the World Bank for financial assistance in December, 1980 and agreement with the World Bank was signed during June, 1983. Contracts for major civil works were awarded during January, 1986. The expenditure on the project (chargeable to Power) upto March, 1988 was Rs. 146.69 crores. The expenditure during the current year (April—December 1988) was Rs. 22.77 crores approximately.

(c) The original sanctioned cost was revised in September 1982. Thereafter, no further revision has been made.

(d) The culturable command area of the project is 121380 hec. The annual energy expected to be generated from this project after its completion would be 1962 Gwh.

Introduction of New Public Call Offices

*353. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Telecommunications is planning to introduce coin-type and card type new public call offices providing STD facilities in the metropolitan cities;

(b) if so, what are the salient features of the proposed system;

(c) whether the said system will be introduced in the cities in Punjab also; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and to what extent the public will be benefited by this facility?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BIR BAHADUR SINGH): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. These public telephones will permit STD/ISD calls by use of one rupee coins or tokens or use of cards. Some of them may permit local calls also.

These telephones will be provided all over the country, including cities of Punjab, progressively as these telephones become available.

The general public would be able to make STD/ISD calls from these telephones by dialling the calls themselves.

Overmanning in public sector

*354. SHRI DEBA PRASAD RAY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the public sector suffers from 25 per cent to 35 per cent over-manning; if not, what is Government's assessment in this regard;

(b) whether any international agency has given any report regarding overmanning in India's public sector; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to eliminate the same in a phased manner?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) The overall percentage of overmanning has not been assessed. But as per information available, 31 public sector enterprises have reported that 50,287 employees are surplus to their requirements, 86 public sector enterprises have no surplus and the remaining 92 public sector enterprises have not yet identified surplus staff.

(b) Government is not aware of any such report.

(c) Government have formulated a Voluntary Retirement Scheme for implementation by the public sector enterprises. On implementation of this scheme surplus manpower can be gradually reduced.

Recruitment in ONGC

*355. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the newsitem in Financial Express of 30th January, 1989 regarding an understanding between ONGC and Gujarat Government concerning recruitment in ONGC; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and whether such understanding would be sought with the other State Governments also where ONGC is operating?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Recruitment in ONGC is done according to the procedure laid down in the ONGC (Recruitment & Promotion) Regulations, 1980. Such procedure provides for appointments from, among others, candidates sponsored by local employment exchanges and apprentices trained in the concerned Regions. The question of ONGC reaching a separate understanding with any State Government on recruitments in ONGC would not thus arise.

Tie-up sales of gas stoves by LPG agencies in Andhra Pradesh

*356. SHRI PRABHAKAR RAO KALVALA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received complaints from public and Consumer Education and Research Centre regarding tie-up sales of gas stoves by LPG agencies in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the action taken by Government against LPG agencies?